

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Non-Final Office Action dated March 1, 2011. Claims 11-12, 15-18, and 20-23 are pending in this Application, and Claims 11-12, 15-18, and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. In this Response, Claims 11, 18, 20 and 23 are amended herein. Claim 24 is newly added. The amendments do not add new matter. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing. If such a withdrawal is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket No. 3712174-00518 on the account statement. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are improper or have been overcome, as set forth in detail below.

The Office Action rejected Claims 11, 12, 14-17, 20, 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuyama et al. ("Fukuyama") U.S. Patent No. 6,831,406 B1 in view of Seo et al. ("Seo") U.S. Publication No. 2002/0113546A1. Of the rejected claims, Claims 11, 18, 20 and 23 are the sole independent claims. Independent Claim 11 has been amended to recite, at least in part, an organic EL device comprising: a plurality of light emitting layers including a red light emitting layer, a green light emitting layer, and a blue light emitting layer laminated between an anode and a cathode; an electron transport layer formed in contact with the cathode; and an intermediate layer comprised of an organic material provided in at least one location between the light emitting layers, said intermediate layer having an electron blocking property and a hole transporting property, wherein the green light emitting layer comprises a hole transporting material and an electron transporting material, and wherein the red light emitting layer is formed in contact with a hole transporting layer that is formed on the anode, and wherein a composition of the intermediate layer is different than a composition of the electron transport layer and different than a composition of the hole transporting layer. Claims 18, 20 and 23 have been amended in a similar fashion. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, in Examples 1 and 2 on pages 36 to 42 of the Specification.

The Office Action admits that the primary Fukuyama reference does not disclose: "(1) that said intermediate layer has an electron blocking property and a hole transport property or (2) that the green light emitting layer comprising a hole transporting material and an electron transporting material." (See, Office Action, pg. 3). The Office Action relies on Seo for the alleged disclosure of item (2), and relies on a combination of Figs. 3, 4, 7 and 8 from Fukuyama

for suggesting item (1) above. Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of features from the different embodiments shown in Figs. 3, 4, 7 and 8 in Fukuyama do not disclose or suggest each of the features of amended independent Claims 11, 18, 20 and 23.

In particular regard to item (1) above, Fig. 3 of Fukuyama discloses a single light emitting layer 14 formed in the middle of two sublayers 16a and 16b of the electron transport layer 16. Because 16a and 16b are sublayers of the electron transport layer 16, they are of the same material and composition. As such, even assuming *arguendo* that sublayer 16b could be considered to be the presently claimed intermediate layer, this layer 16b does not have a different composition than sublayer 16a (i.e., because they are sublayers of the same overall layer 16). A similar analysis applies to Fig. 4, where the light emission layer 14 is formed between sublayers 12a and 12b of the hole transport layer 12, and to Fig. 8, where the three "emission sublayers 14a and 14b and 14c are formed ... inside the electron transport layer." (See, Fukuyama, col. 8, lines 38-50).

In the case of Fig. 8, it appears that the Office considers that emission sublayers 16a and 16b of the electron transport layer read on the presently claimed intermediate layer (except for the claimed feature of sublayers 16a and 16b having an electron transporting property and a hole blocking property in contrast to the presently claimed intermediate layer having an electron blocking property and a hole transporting property). Thus, it appears that the Office Action is alleging that it would be obvious based on the disclosure related to Fig. 8 to disperse multiple light emission layers within the transport layer of Fig. 4. However, even assuming that the concept from Fig. 8 were to be applied to Fig. 4, such an "intermediate layer" would not have a composition of the intermediate layer that is different than a composition of the electron transport layer and different than a composition of the hole transport layer as presently claimed (i.e., such an "intermediate layer" would be a part of the hole transport layer 12 in Fig. 4 and inherently have an identical composition as same). However, as shown, for example, in Example 2 and Fig. 6 of the present application, varying the composition of the intermediate layer enables different HOMO-LUMO levels between hole transport layer 10, intermediate layers "a" and electron transport layer 14, and thus enables better balancing of white light emission. (See also, Specification, pg. 42, line 21 to pg. 43, line 4). Therefore, Fukuyama and Seo fail to disclose or suggest each of the features of the presently claimed invention, even assuming that there are properly combinable.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of Claims 11, 12, 14-17, 20, 22 and 23 over Fukuyama and Seo be withdrawn.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuyama and Seo, as applied to Claim 11, in further view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0012331 to Yamazaki et al. ("Yamazaki"). Yamazaki is merely relied on for the alleged disclosure of an EL device with a color filter on the light take-out side, and thus fails to cure the deficiencies of Fukuyama and Seo, even assuming that the references are properly combinable.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of Claim 18 over Fukuyama, Seo and Yamazaki be withdrawn.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuyama and Seo, as applied to Claims 11 and 16 above, in further view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0197511 to D'Andrade et al. ("D'Andrade"). D'Andrade is merely relied on for the alleged disclosure an organic material for the intermediate layer including one of TPD and CBP, and thus fails to cure the deficiencies of Fukuyama and Seo, even assuming that the references are properly combinable.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of Claim 18 over Fukuyama, Seo and D'Andrade be withdrawn.

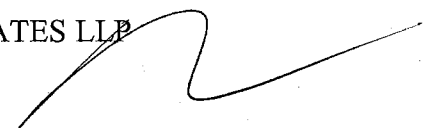
New dependent Claim 24 is believed to be allowable over the cited art of record for at least the reasons discussed above, and for the additional elements recited therein.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit the present application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,

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